

基础汉语

**BASIC**

Edited and produced by Cattssoft, Inc.

和成公司 编辑制作

**CHINESE**

第一册

**DISC ONE**

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北京语言大学出版社  
BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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## Preface

*Basic Chinese* is designed to help students learn Chinese through simple and well-designed situational dialogues. There are two books and each book is accompanied by a CD-ROM. An important feature of *Basic Chinese* is that *pinyin* is taught in great detail. Lesson one to Lesson seven devote entirely to teaching *pinyin* and provide students a lot of practice. Mastering *pinyin* not only assures that students will learn the correct pronunciation but also gives students the alternative to communicate with others without using Chinese characters.

The sentence patterns included in *Basic Chinese* cover the most common aspects of daily life. Simplicity and the gradual approach of teaching and learning is the design philosophy of this introductory course. Each lesson contains the following sections.

**Sentence Patterns** contains the main texts in each lesson. There are two texts in this section. Text A includes the basic sentence structures while Text B forms a complete situational dialogue involving the basic ones in Text A. And the Chinese characters in both texts are accompanied by *pinyin*.

**New Words** includes all the words and phrases that are learned in the lesson. A graphic display that shows the order of strokes in writing a character is meant to help students to write the characters correctly. In Vocabulary Index you can search

words by both English and *pinyin*. Vocabulary Index not only includes the words and phrases in the lessons but those commonly used ones that are not in any lessons.

**Exercise** has a variety of practices on what have been learned. Listening comprehension is emphasized but you can find practices on *pinyin*, recognition of characters, and other types of exercises as well.

**Grammar** offers explanations on key grammar points. Many examples are given to show similarities and differences between Chinese and English. This section should be of great help to students in understanding the rules and structures of the Chinese language.

**Knowledge Corner** is an interesting place for students to learn about China and the Chinese culture. Here, you can find historical facts and interesting stories about China as well as some beautiful photos and graphics.

In sum, *Basic Chinese* provides a fast and effective way for beginners to learn Chinese. Both school students who are taking Chinese classes regularly and people who want to learn Chinese through self study will find *Basic Chinese* a great asset. The accompanying CD-ROMs include all the contents of the books and provides a great help. A simple user-friendly interface provides an interactive relaxed multimedia environment for learners. All functions and buttons are self-explanatory and you can always click on the “help” menu to get detailed explanations whenever you have any questions.

# 前 言

《基础汉语》是一本通过精心设计的情景对话来帮助学生学习汉语的初级教材，全书共分两册，每一册配有一个多媒体光盘。详细地教授汉语拼音是《基础汉语》的一个重要特点。第一课到第七课完整地教授了汉语拼音，并给学生提供了大量的练习机会。掌握拼音不但可以保证正确的发音，还可以让学生选择在他们未掌握汉字以前用拼音来进行沟通。

《基础汉语》所选择的句型包括日常生活中最常用的情景，循序渐进和简单易学是《基础汉语》的设计思想。以下是《基础汉语》的功能简介：

**句型**包括两组课文。课文 A 是基本句型，课文 B 以课文 A 的基本句型为基础编制一个完整的情景对话，每组课文都注有拼音。

**生词**包含当课所学的字词和词组。笔划的显示可以帮助学生正确地书写汉字。生词总检索表不但包含书中所学的所有字和词，还包含一些书中没学的常用字和词，同时，通过英语和拼音都可以对生词进行检索。

**练习**旨在对所学内容从不同方面提供训练机会。强调听力练习，但也注重其他方面的练习，如拼音练习和识字练习等。

**语法**对当课的语法重点做了详细的解释。这里包含大量的例句，解释注重对比汉语和英语相同和不同的地方。这一

部分对学生理解汉语的语言规则和结构会有很大的帮助。

**知识乐园**是一个轻松学习的版块。在这里学生可以获得关于中国和中国文化方面的知识，内容不但包括史实，有趣的故事，还有非常精美的图片。

总之，《基础汉语》为汉语初学者提供了一条快速有效的学习途径。无论是在校学生，还是自学者都会发现《基础汉语》是一套很好的汉语入门教材。随书配送的多媒体光盘将对学习提供巨大帮助。光盘里包括书中的全部内容，简单的使用界面可以使学习者在互动的多媒体环境中轻松地学习。所有功能和按键都一目了然，如果你有任何问题，只要查阅一下“帮助”，就会得到详细的说明。

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## LESSON

## 1

Introduction to *Pinyin***Introduction to *Pinyin***

In old days, written Chinese characters had no designated “pronunciation” and were spoken in a variety of regional dialects across the country. Nevertheless, the written language could easily be understood because the characters meant the same thing regardless of what dialect people spoke.

Spoken Chinese, however, varies a great deal. Numerous dialects are spoken all across China. Some dialects are so different from each other that people from one region may have great difficulty understanding the spoken language from another region. For example, Mandarin, which is spoken in northern China, is completely different from Cantonese, which is spoken mostly in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong SAR.

There have been a number of ways to render Chinese words into

English alphabets. For decades the most used system had been the **Wade-Giles** system (although it does not represent Chinese sounds very well) until the *pinyin* system was developed in the late 1950s.

In 1958 the Chinese government developed a Romanized system for Chinese characters using the Latin alphabets called the *pinyin* system. The development of the *pinyin* system is significant in two respects. First, it is a milestone in Chinese language history in terms of standardizing the pronunciation of Chinese characters.

Second, *pinyin* is a Romanized *pinyin* system for marking Chinese characters. This is why, for instance, we now say “Beijing” [*pinyin*] and not “Peking” [Wade-Giles]. However, it is important to note that while Chinese names are all translated by using the *pinyin* system today, certain words are kept in their old translations because they are so well known. For instance, the Yangtze River retains that name rather than *changjiang* by *pinyin*.

After the introduction of *pinyin*, it has come to be used as phonetic notation to mark *putonghua* (common speech of the Chinese language). *Putonghua* is based on Mandarin, which is spoken in the Beijing area and northern China. *Pinyin* simply represents the spoken sounds of *putonghua*, which is an oral representation

of Chinese characters. Today, *putonghua* is the official spoken language of government and education. Everyone is expected to speak it although people from the same region may still prefer to speak their own dialects among themselves.

## Vowels or Finals in *Pinyin*

The two characters “拼音” (*pinyin*) mean “Spell the sound forming syllables”. The *pinyin* system uses 27 letters that are similar to those in English. However, letters in the *pinyin* system do not correspond to the usual English letter sounds very well because the pronunciations of most letters are altered to meet the needs of the Chinese language. For example, the *pinyin* pronunciation of “q” is close to “ch”.

Of the 27 letters in *pinyin* six are vowels and twenty one are consonants. Vowels in *pinyin* are called finals, and the six finals are also called singular finals because each singular final consists of only one letter.

### The six singular finals are:

a o e i u ü

In addition to the six singular finals, there are twenty nine compound finals that are formed by two or three singular finals, or finals followed by a nasal consonant such as n or ng. Together, the compound and singular finals make it possible that every Chinese syllable and character can be represented by a final alone or a combination of an initial (consonant) and a final.

The twenty nine compound finals are:

ai	an	ang	ao					
ei	en	eng	er					
ia	iao	ie	iu	ian	in	iang	ing	iong
ou	ong							
ua	uo	uai	ui	uan	uang	un		
üe	üan	ün						

Table of 35 finals:

	i	u	ü
a	ia	ua	
o		uo	
e	ie		üe
ai		uai	
ei		uei	
ao	iao		
ou	iou		
an	ian	uan	üan
en	in	uen	ün
ang	iang	uang	
eng	ing	ueng	
ong	iong		

## Consonants or Initials in *Pinyin*

There are twenty one consonants in *pinyin* and they are called initials. The initials are typically used to consonantly begin a syllable although some syllables can be represented by a final alone.

**The twenty one initials are:**

b p m f d t n l g k h j q x zh ch sh  
r z c s

As you may have noticed the initials zh, ch, and sh all contain two letters. There are also two special initials y and w that are used only in special situations as you will see in Lesson 5 and Lesson 7.

## Tones

### Four tones

Chinese language is a tonal language. There are four tones known as 1) the flat tone (also called the first tone), 2) the rising tone (the second tone), 3) the falling-and-rising tone (the third tone), and 4) the falling tone (the fourth tone). The four tones are depicted respectively by the following tone-graphs: “ - ” (the first tone), “ ˊ ” (the second tone), “ ˇ ” (the third tone), and “ ˋ ” (the fourth tone). The tone-graph is put on top of the final in a syllable to indicate the correct tone of a given syllable. For example: bā, bá, bǎ, bà.

When the final is a single final in the syllable, the tone-graph should be put on top of that syllable such as “bá”. In a compound final the tone graph should be put on the main final such as bēi.

It is important to learn the four tones in Chinese because the

same syllable with different tones may have completely different meanings in Chinese. For example, bā means “eight”, bá means “pull”, bǎ means “make” or “cause”, and bà means “father”.

### The light tone

Besides the four tones, there is also a light tone and it should be pronounced both lightly and shortly and does not have a tone-graph representation. Only a few characters are pronounced with the light tone.

## Syllables

Each Chinese character has only one syllable. Since each character normally has an independent meaning, this means that each syllable represents an independent meaning in Chinese although you must remember that a word may contain two or more characters. The written form of a Chinese syllable is a character.

As introduced above syllables in Chinese are composed of initials, finals and tones. Generally an initial (consonant) plus a final (vowel) forms a complete Chinese phonetic syllable, e.g. bēn. However, finals  $\alpha$ ,  $\circ$ ,  $\Theta$ , and compound finals starting with any one of the above three singular finals can form an independent syllable (without the use of initials) by themselves, e.g. ān.

## Knowledge Corner

### Introduction of China

China is the third largest country in the world and has an area of 9.6 million square kilometers. China's border stretches over 22,000 kilometers on land and the coastline extends over 18,000 kilometers mostly on its east coast.

China is the world's most populous country with 1.29227 billion at the end of 2003, and this figure does not include the Chinese living in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions and Taiwan Province. About 90 percent of Chinese people are



Han. The non-Han population includes 55 ethnic minorities, of which the major groups are the Zhuang, Manchu, Hui, Miao, Uygur, Yi, Tujia, Mongolian, and Tibetan. China has an extremely diverse climate including tropical in the south, sub-arctic in the north, mountains, high plateaus, and deserts in the west, and plains, deltas, and hills in the east.

Since the sweeping economic reforms began in 1978, China's economy continues to grow rapidly, with a GDP real growth rate of 9.1 percent in 2003, and an annual industrial production growth rate of 11.6 percent between 1979 and 2000.

There are 23 provinces, five autonomous regions, four municipalities directly under the Central Government, and Hong Kong and Macao are the two special administrative regions. The 23 provinces are Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang; the five autonomous regions are Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang, and Tibet; the four municipalities are Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing.

Spring Festival or Chinese New Year (generally between the last 10-day period of January and mid-February) is the most important holiday for Chinese people. Other national holidays include New Year's Day (January 1st), the International Labor Day (May 1st), and National Day (October 1st).



Spring Festival Gala  
(春节晚会)



RMB (Chinese Currency)  
(人民币)

Renminbi (RMB/ Yuan) is the Chinese currency. As of October, 2005, the exchange rate between RMB and USD is about USD1=RMB8.26.



## LESSON

## 2

a o e i u ü b p m f

## Finals

a o e i u ü

## Initials

b p m f

## Words

bà	mā	bā	mǎ	bù
爸	妈	八	马	不

## Phrases

bàba	māma
爸爸	妈妈